MARYLAND AND GEORGIA

By Geo. G. Smith,
VINEVILLE, MACON, GA.

I knew Marylanders had some part in the making of Georgia, but it was only lately that I saw how much the little state had done in this direction. I called attention in a previous article to the earliest history of that state which had the proud pre-eminence though settled by a Roman Catholic of having been the first on this western continent and as far as that is concerned, the first in the world to allow perfect religious freedom. I told of how Puritans fled from the intolerance of church people in Virginia, and Quakers fled from the intolerance of Puritans and church men alike and both found homes on the banks of the Severn and Patuxent where they could hold meetings silent or noisy, as the spirit moved them and of how after a hundred years when the lands on the Peninsula were worn and the prolific refugees had many descendants they migrated southward and settled in North Carolina and then moved still further toward the tropics and found homes in the wilds of Georgia. These first settlers in Georgia came from the peninsula, the eastern shore and western shores of the Chesapeake and from around the new town of Baltimore. There is, however, another and more interesting chapter concerning the Marylanders in Georgia, the first part of which begins just about the time that Cecil Calvert planted the crop and his Jesuit confessor had the mass in Lord Baltimore's new colony. The irrepressible Celts in the north of Ireland had been driven from their ancient domain by Cromwell's troopers and the Scotch soldiers who had helped to overturn things in England had received large grants of the confiscated land and these lands had been then tenanted by poor but industrious Scotch tenants. The land was not the best and the children of the tenants were many and so when after 100 years had gone and they found ships at Belfast and Dublin and Port Rush, going to the new world and found the passage rate was low and if the emigrant had no money he had but to promise to work for five years for his food and clothes and should have his passage free and the landlords named the exodus was simply immense. It looked as if upper Ireland would be depopulated. Then, too, the poor Catholics of southern Ireland to whom no other province but Maryland offered a home, or a priest found a refuge here, so the emigration of the genuine Irishman and his Scotch kinsman went together. These poor peasants had little to bring with them but their brave hearts and strong arms. They came first to Pennsylvania but by 1750 eastern Pennsylvania was already crowded.

These Irish emigrants came on to Maryland to find that the Carrolls, and Ridgelys, and Howards, and Halls, and Eagers, and Lloyds, who had been before them had about pre-empted all the available land of the province which was desirable, and there were many negroes in the Chesapeake, but west of Baltimore and north of it to the Pannsylvania line there was still new land to be secured, if not by purchase by rental from the great landholders, and it was a land free from tobacco and slaves, and so these Scotch-Irish people and these Catholic Irish people found homes in this section.

Close beside them were the Dutch, as they were called, the Palatines or Germans, as they really were. As Protestants had driven the Catholic Irish from their native hills, so the legions of his most Catholic majesty of France had swept the Palatine with a broom and these honest Germans had fled first to Pennsylvania and then Maryland. By the time the revolution came these Scotch-Irish and German immigrants were settled all through the hills and valleys west of the town of Baltimore and had multiplied until there was scant room for them. They had neither slaves nor white servants and while the lowland planter had his black slaves by the score and while he shipped his tobacco to Bristol and bought brocades for the madame and wine and cognac for himself and his guests and silver spoons and red velvet for the squire's heir and all went piously to the parish church and while through Talbot and Kent and Calvert there was a little England in this up country the sturdy Scotch-Irishman drove the plow himself and went to the kirk and studied the shorter catechism, and the honest Dutchman fed his cows and went to the Dunkard or Mennonite meeting, and in the valleys hidden in the mountains one would have found a little German or a Scotch hamlet.

But there was no room for so many people and the children having heard of the Yadkin country in North Carolina and the way being opened down the Virginia valley so as the people from Somerset and Talbot had gone to eastern North Carolina, so they took the line of march to the valley of the Yadkin; fixed their homes in Rowan and Anson and Orange and Mecklenberg.

They were there when the revolution commenced and these brave dissenters even before led in the regulators war, and finally in the revolution. Before this war began they heard great stories of the fertility of Georgia and so colonies of them came into old Wilkes, then including a dozen other counties. These were the forerunners.

The war ended, and when the landless in Maryland heard of free homes in Georgia they took up the line of march again and at last built their cabins in Warren, Hancock and Washington, as well as in Franklin, Jackson, Hall. I do not know that I could do a better service to those who are really anxious to know the facts which make history than to draw from the archives of Maryland some of the names which are so familiar to us all. I am fortunately able to do this, because I have, through the kindness of Governor Candler, had the archives of Maryland put at my service.

Before the period to which the volume from which I now refer, the revolutionary, there were quite a number of Marylanders in Georgia, but many men came just after the war. In searching in vain in Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia for a soldier I have more than once found him in Maryland. I had a letter from Indiana, inquiring about a "Dwiggens" family. I could find no record of it, till I came to Maryland, and then I found it, and so with sundry others, the Abbetts, Abells, Actons, Adams families were in Maryland before they went to the Carolinas, from whence they came to Georgia. The Addison family from which my old friend Dr. Holt descended, was in Maryland. The Alexanders, Allens, Allisons, Andersons, came originally from Maryland. I have in my library an old copy of Lady Montague, which has a book plate and coat of arms of Nathaniel Potter, who was in Maryland. I find a letter to Charles Wallace Howard from the council, during the revolution. This name was borne by that accomplished and useful man, Rev. Charles Wallace Howard, of Georgia.

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The Duvals, Earles and Earlys were in Maryland and Virginia and thence to Georgia. The Edens, Elders, Elleges, Evans, Everetts, were from Maryland to North Carolina, and thence to Georgia. The Fannings were in Maryland, North Carolina and Georgia. The Fergusons, Flints, Flemmings, Fishers, Fords, were in Maryland. The Foxes, Freemans, Fulfords, now in Georgia, were in Maryland.

Captain Henry Gaither, Ed. Sylvester and Zephaniah Gaither were represented in Georgia by Brice and Dr. Henry Gaither, who were prominent people in Maryland. The Gardners, Gardeners, and Garuners were Maryland people. They came to Columbia or Richmond counties in Georgia. Colonel James Gardner, the famous editor, was a descendant of the Gardners of Maryland. The Garners, Garisons, Gates, and Gants were from Maryland. The Gibsons, Giles and Givens, Goddards, Goldsmiths. The family of Colonel Charles Gordon, General John Gordon, while coming from Virginia and North Carolina, came through Maryland. The Grasons, to whom Dr. Heidt belongs, the Greaves, the Grists, a family of Griffins, the Griffiths and Gunbys, the Hagans, to which family the late Dr. Hagan probably belonged, the Halls, from whom Dr. Charles H. Hall sprang, a family of Hamiltons and Hambletons, and Hammonds, the Handys, Hansons and Harbins, were all Marylanders. The Hardmans, who were in Wilkes, and who are now in Marietta and Atlanta, the Harringtons, who came from North Carolina to Georgia.

The Harrises to which Mr. E. G. Harris, of Macon, belongs, and too Nathan Harris, ancestor of William Schley Howard, who first came to Maryland before they did to Virginia and North Carolina. Clement, Richard, Thomas and William Harrison, who have descendants in Georgia, are mentioned as being in Maryland.

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The MacAfees, Magruders, Mannings, Marburys, Martins, were Marylanders. We had a lay member of our last conference, Lemuel Martin, who belonged, doubtless, to the same family of Aaron Burr's great friend, Luther Martin, the lawyer, who was by no means a Methodist. There were Maxwells, Mays, McBrides in Maryland during the revolution, as they were in South Carolina. There were McGrines, Middletons, Milligans. There were Millers, Mitchells and Montgomerys. There were James and Mark Moore. Muses and Musgroves, Nantzes, Neals, Nicols, Nicolsons. There were the O'Neals, from whom the Neals, of Columbia, sprung, Parkinses, Pattisons, Pattersons, Penns, Penningtons, Perrys, Phillips, Porters, Poseys, Potters, Prices, Pritchards, Randalls, Rawlings, Rhys, Reads, Reynolds, Richardsons, the Roaches, from which Dr. Roach, of Atlanta, descended. The Rogers, the Rudolphs, who went west to Ohio, and to North Carolina and then to Georgia. The family of Joshua Sanders, of Madison county, had a kinsman Joshua, of Maryland.

Isaac Scott was a soldier in the revolution in Maryland, and William Scott was a soldier in Georgia. Isaac Scott was a rich banker in Macon and was the son of William Scott, who was the soldier in the revolution. His family was doubtless originally from Maryland, and probably William Scott and Isaac were brothers. The Sellmans, Sewalls, Shavers, Shaws, Shields were in Maryland and afterward in Georgia. The Smiths, who came from Maryland to Georgia were innumerable. The Smoots, to whom Judge Johnson, of Waynesboro, belongs. The Talbots, of Georgia, all came from Maryland to Virginia. The celebrated Thomas family, of Maryland, was represented in Georgia by Colonel Edward Lloyd Thomas and General Edward Lloyd Thomas, his son, and Huckabees, and the Thomasees, of Waycross, were of the same kith. The Veasays, Wards, Wartugs, Turners, Turnbulls, Turpins all came from Maryland. The Warrens, Waters, Watts, Welchs, Wests, a family of Whites, the Wilcoxons, Wilkinsons, Williams, a family of Wilsons, a family of Wises, Woods and Woottons, Worthingtons and Wrights, Tomlinsons, Youngs and Zimmermans all had branches in Georgia. Many of these did not come from Maryland to Georgia directly. They came into North Carolina, then South Carolina and then to Georgia, but they landed in Maryland on their arrival in America or went from Virginia or Pennsylvania. Many of the Scotch Irish, who were in Maryland, came to Pennsylvania and only made a short stay in Maryland. There were no worthier people and those who descended from them may well be proud of their descent. Many Marylanders went west and Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri had many of them among their early people and their descendants have been of their worthiest inhabitants.

The full article is shown above in original layout. An enlarged copy is included in the following pages, with the center column duplicated on both pages.

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